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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Germany/French Zone

SUBJECT Comment on the Elections in the French Zone
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SUPPLEMENT

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1. The results of the elections of 13 October 1946 were surprising in that the Social Democratic Party improved its position since the elections of 15 September 1946. The SPD obtained votes from purely rural districts which would apparently have been impossible before 1933. Election results were surprising in predominantly Catholic cities: in Trier, for example, the SPD had almost three times as many votes as during its best period before 1933; in Coblenz, the SPD had almost twice as many. In Worms, the SPD and the CDU received the same number of votes.
2. This phenomenon is possibly related to the fact that in the past months religious institutions have obtained more building materials than were obtained for civilian housing. The number of square meters of window glass obtained for the repair of churches in Trier was greater than that for houses. The same applied to bricks, cement, lime, and lumber. Without actually attacking the Church, the SPD has cleverly used this situation in their propaganda to obtain the above results.
3. In the southern part of the French Zone (Baden-Württemberg), there was hardly a place, according to informants, in which the ecclesiastics have not urged the voters to "vote Christian."
4. The SPD made the mistake of not working out clearly enough its ideological and organizational independence from the KPD. Most of the SPD speakers spoke of the "brother party" in connection with the KPD, thereby giving the CDU all the desired arguments. Even the "democratic parties" which have become strong in Baden and Württemberg have profited mainly from the vague ideologies of the SPD.
5. In general, one can say that opposition to the KPD is strong. KPD membership consists mainly of radicalized young men who have been relatively slightly influenced by the strong activity of Communist groups.
6. It is interesting to note that with very few exceptions the SPD meetings had the best attendance. Even in localities where the CDU had the absolute majority, the CDU spokesmen had to speak to empty halls, while the SPD meetings were overcrowded.

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